

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 14-17, 19, 23, 25 and 31-33 are pending in the application. Claims 14-15 and 23 are amended and claims 31-33 have been newly added herewith. Applicant submits that the claims are patentable over the cited references. The prior art fails to disclose the unique combination of the current application, i.e. (1) the input device is enabled to perform four-way movement of a highlight bar among rows and columns and (2) moving and executing is performed without substantial repositioning of a user body part that contacts the first key section.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 14-17, 19, 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wicks et al. (U.S. 6,128,475) in view of Haas (EP 0602840) in view of Sudo et al. (U.S. 5,987,336) and further in view of Masaru (U.S. 5,235,568). Applicant respectfully traverses.

The claimed invention is directed to a unique combination of structure and function including a selection key pad with first through fourth keys. The first through fourth selection keys and the specific placement of the selection keys allow easy navigation through rows and columns. Thus, the combination of the structure and function of the selection keys allows for ease and convenience of use for a user of the claimed portable communication device. Applicant also notes that the claimed execution key has a calling function. In contrast, the cited references, even taken together, do not provide for the claimed combination. For example, these references are not even directed to the display and navigation through rows and columns, as claimed, let

alone suggesting the combination of structure and function of the claimed device. The Examiner cites Sudo as allegedly teaching rows and columns. However, Sudo (5,987,336) does not even mention the word column, nor do the figures show information items in columns that may be selected by a user. Contrary to Sudo, FIG. 4 of the current application clearly shows a plurality of rows and columns containing information items that may be selected by a user.

Similarly, neither Wicks (6,128,475) nor Masaru (5,235,568) mention the word column in their respective specifications. Nor does Haas (EP 0602840) show a display with rows and columns on a portable communication apparatus. Indeed, Haas's invention is directed to control of a computer using a telephone handset and the telephone handset does not have a display thereon.

Furthermore, even if one of the cited references did disclose rows and columns, there still would be no teaching of the improved navigation through rows and columns in a portable communication device by the use of a selection key pad as particularly claimed.

In view of the above, claim 14 is allowable over the combination of Wicks, Haas, Sudo and Masaru. Claims 15-17, 19, 24 and 25 depend from claim 14 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 23 is rewritten in independent format. Claim 23 is allowable at least for reasons similar to claim 14. Additionally, in the Office Action dated July 6, 2007, the Examiner does not address the particular features of claim 23 and none of the cited references include the combination of features recited therein.

III. New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 31-33 herewith. Claims 31-33 are allowable at least by virtue of the recitations included therein.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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